

Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03245 261221Z

53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

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O 261120Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4118

INFO ACTOBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 2727

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3245

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY

REF: DAO TEL AVIV 1965 OCT 73M

1. REFTTEL DESCRIBES ISOLATION OF EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. AT SAME TIME IT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS WHICH HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON US POLICY IN AREA.

2. PRIMARY QUESTION IS WHETHER ISRAEL INTENDS TO DESTROY THIRD ARMY AND THEREBY REGAIN CONTROL OF AREA IT OCCUPIES TO EAST OF CANAL. IT MAY NOT. NEVERTHELESS, ZEIRA'S STATEMENT ABOUT SHOOTING DOWN ANY AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTERS LANDING OR TAKING OFF FROM THIRD ARMY AREA, AND HIS INFO THAT IDF HAS CUT WATER PIPELINES SAME AREA, SUGGESTS THAT ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO FORCE THIRD ARMY TO SURRENDER OR TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER BREAKOUT WHICH IDF WOULD THEN USE TO CRUSH IT.

3. ASIDE FROM IMPLICATIONS OF PRESENT SITUATION FOR CEASE-FIRE, DESTRUCTION OR SURRENDER OF THIRD ARMY COULD WELL IMPOSE ON EGYPT A MENTALITY OF DEFEAT SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH
SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 03245 261221Z

HAS HELD IT FROM NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FOR THE PAST SIX AND A HALF YEARS. IT WILL, MOREOVER, PLACE MORE PRESSURE ON SADAT'S PERSONAL POSITION.
SMITH

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
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DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TEL AVIV
USUN N Y
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005